A Monthly Report from The Conference Board

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SCOREBOARD

The Conference Board

MAY, 1985

R4105-LA

SUMMARY

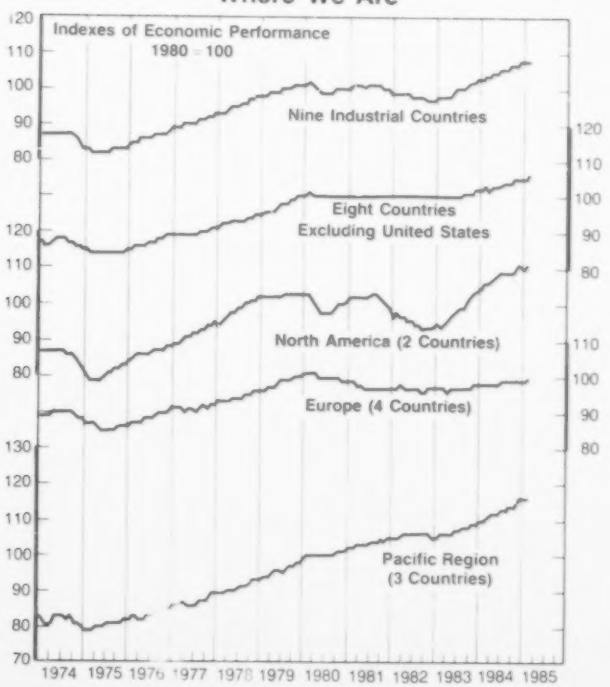
The leading economic indexes for nine industrial countries continue to project widespread expansion in the months ahead. Compared with three months ago, the latest growth rates show a faster rise in each of the three regions. For the nine countries taken together, the leading index growth rate was 5% at the latest reading, up from 3% three months earlier. Among individual countries the most notable first-quarter changes in the leaders were the improvement in the United States and the United Kingdom and the progressively slower growth—pronounced by historical comparison—in Taiwan, R.O.C.

The economic performance indexes are less cohesive across countries at this point, with the latest figures showing declines for Italy, and Taiwan, R.O.C., no growth for France, and rates ranging from 3 to 7% for the other countries. The nine-country performance index irons out these idiosyncrasies, putting the latest growth rate at 4% compared with 5% three months ago. The overall pattern points to expansion in the industrial countries but only at a moderate pace.

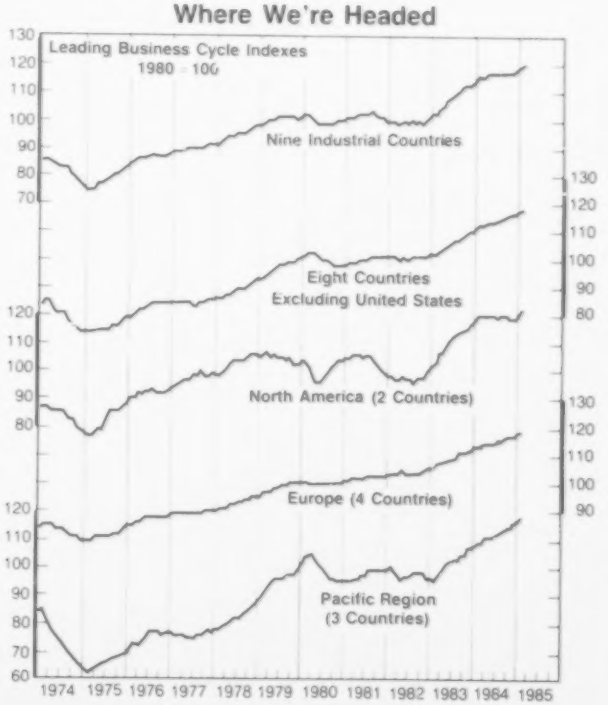
	Ten-year Growth Rate 1969-79	Leading Business Cycle Indexes Growth Rates* 6 mos. ago	3 mos. ago	Latest month	Indexes of Economic Performance Growth Rates* 6 mos. ago	3 mos. ago	Latest month	Current Reading on the Cycle	Latest Month Covered
	annual rates, percent								
9 countries	4	5	3	5	5	5	4	Expansion slowing	Feb.
8 countries ex. U.S.	4	6	5	7	4	4	4	Expansion continuing	Feb.
Europe (4)	3	5	5	5	2	2	3	Expansion continuing	Feb.
Pacific Region (3)	5	8	7	9	5	6	5	Expansion continuing	Feb.
North America (2)	3	4	0	4	8	6	3	Expansion slowing	Feb.
United States	3	2	0	3	7	5	4	Expansion slowing	Mar.
Canada	4	5	3	2	5	5	3	Expansion slowing	Feb.
West Germany	3	5	4	4	4	4	4	Expansion continuing	Feb.
France	4	7	8	7	0	−1	0	Recovery stalled: leaders rising	Feb.
United Kingdom	2	1	2	4	0	3	3	Recovery continuing	Feb.
Italy	3	4	5	6	6	4	−1	Expansion stalled: leaders rising	Jan.
Japan	5	9	7	9	5	6	5	Expansion continuing	Feb.
Australia	4	8	7	7	8	7	7	Expansion continuing	Feb.
Taiwan, R.O.C.	10	8	5	4	6	3	−3	Expansion slowing	Mar.

* Ratio of current month's index to average index over the preceding 12 months, expressed as a compound annual rate.

Where We Are



Where We're Headed



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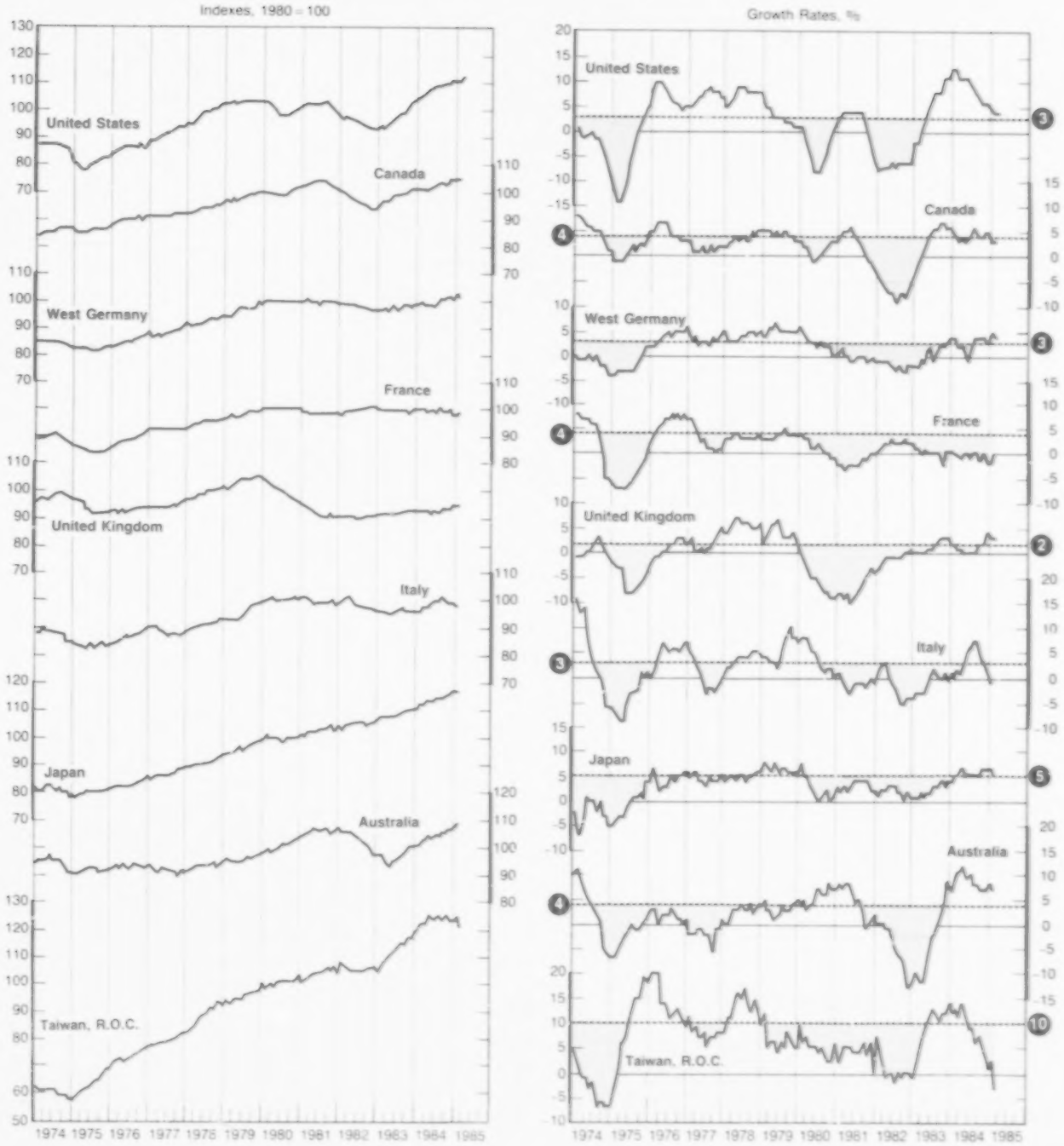
Where We Are

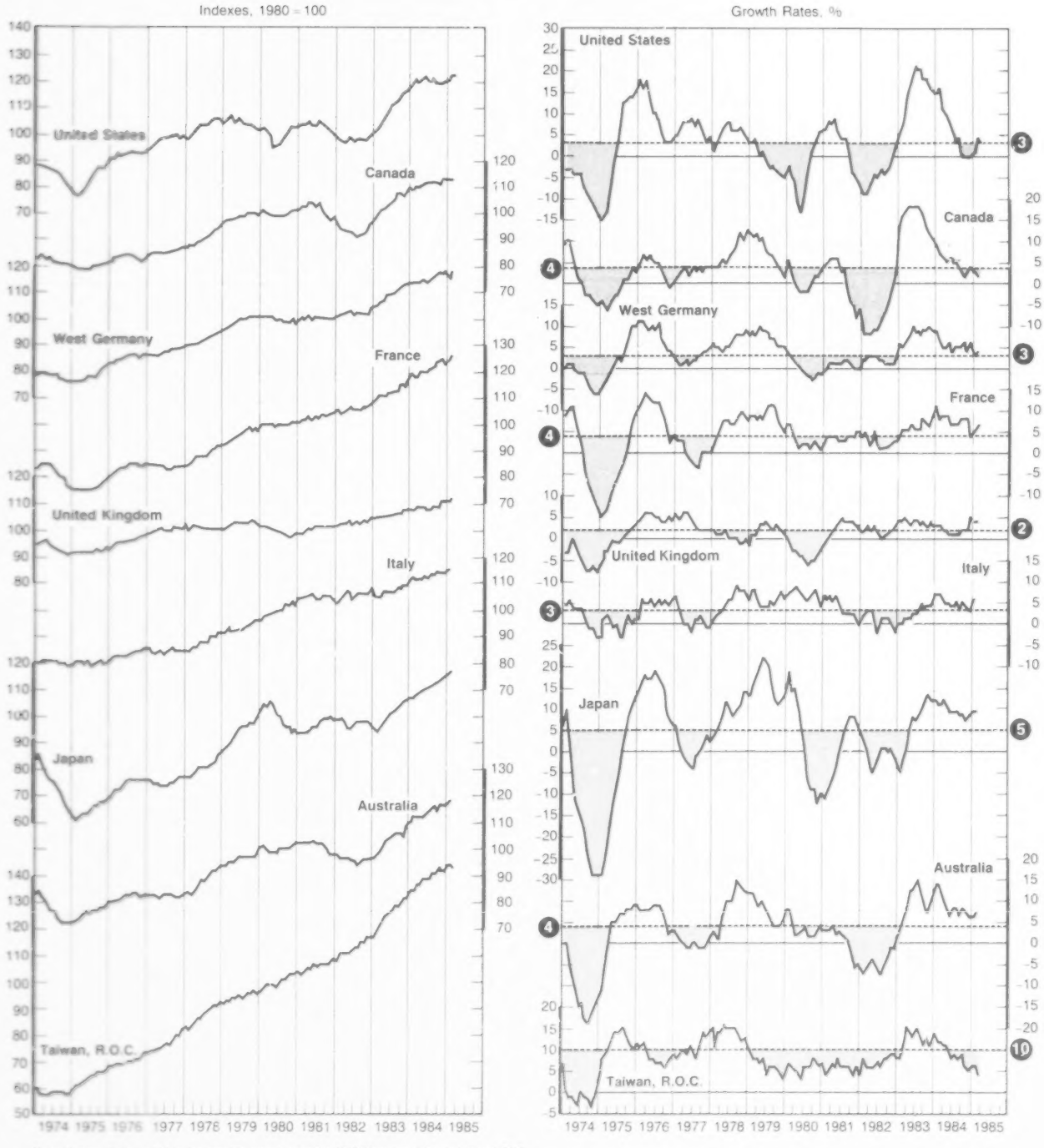
Indexes of Economic Performance



Note: Horizontal dashed lines are average growth rates for 1969-79 in the index and in real GNP.
Sources: CIBCR and The Conference Board

Where We're Headed

Leading Business Cycle Indexes

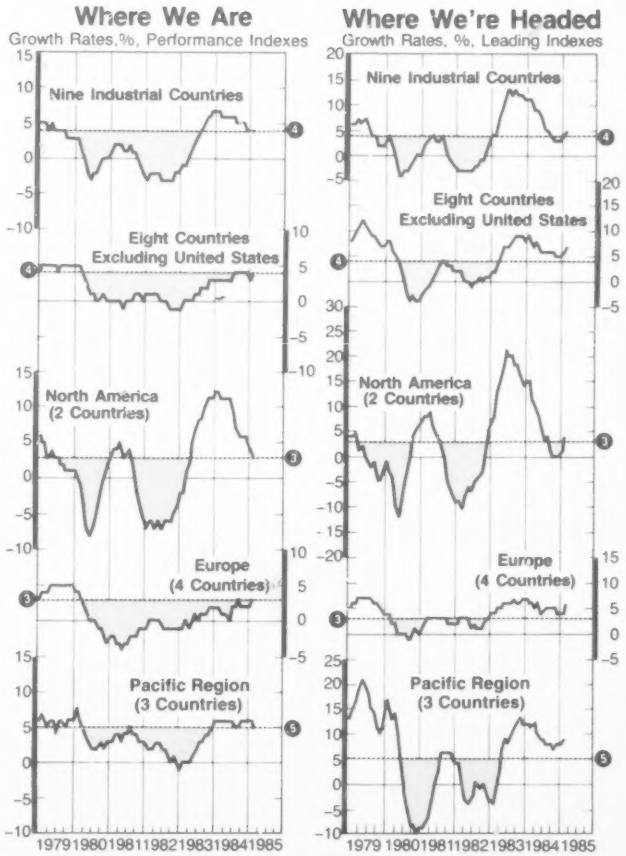


Note: Horizontal dashed lines are average growth rates for 1969-79 in the index and in real GNP.
Sources: CIBCR and The Conference Board

INDEXES, NINE COUNTRIES, 1983-85

		U.S.		Canada		West Germany		France		Italy		U.K.		Japan		Australia		Taiwan, R.O.C.	
		Indexes, 1980 = 100																	
		Perf.	Lead.	Perf.	Lead.	Perf.	Lead.	Perf.	Lead.	Perf.	Lead.	Perf.	Lead.	Perf.	Lead.	Perf.	Lead.	Perf.	Lead.
Jan.	84	105	119	101	109	99	113	100	118	96	111	93	108	110	107	100	110	119	135
Feb.	84	106	121	101	110	100	113	100	118	96	112	93	108	112	107	100	112	119	135
Mar.	84	106	120	101	110	99	113	100	119	97	111	93	109	112	108	102	112	121	137
Apr.	84	108	121	102	111	99	114	99	120	97	111	93	109	112	110	103	112	121	137
May	84	108	121	102	111	99	115	100	120	98	112	92	109	113	110	104	112	124	139
June	84	109	120	103	112	98	114	99	120	99	112	93	108	113	110	104	112	123	139
July	84	109	120	104	112	100	115	100	121	100	112	92	109	114	111	105	114	123	139
Aug.	84	109	121	104	112	101	116	100	122	100	113	92	109	114	112	105	115	124	141
Sept.	84	110	120	104	112	101	116	100	123	101	113	93	109	114	113	106	114	124	141
Oct.	84	110	119	104	111	102	117	99	124	100	114	94	110	115	113	106	116	124	143
Nov.	84	111	120	105	112	102	117	99	124	99	114	94	110	116	114	107	116	125	142
Dec.	84	111	120	105	113	101	118	98	123	99	114	95	111	117	115	107	116	124	142
Jan.	85	111	121	105	113	103	117	98	125	98	116	95	111	117	116	108	117	123	144
Feb.	85	111	123	105	113	102	118	99	126			95	112	117	117	109	118	124	144
Mar.	85	112	123															121	143
		Growth Rates, Percent																	
Jan.	84	13	15	5	9	4	8	0	11	1	7	2	3	4	12	7	12	14	14
Feb.	84	13	16	3	8	5	6	0	8	0	7	2	2	5	11	8	14	12	12
Mar.	84	11	11	3	7	2	5	0	9	2	6	1	3	5	11	10	11	13	12
Apr.	84	11	10	4	6	2	5	–1	9	1	5	1	2	6	12	11	9	11	11
May	84	11	8	3	5	2	6	–1	9	3	5	0	2	6	11	12	7	14	11
June	84	11	6	4	6	–1	4	–1	7	5	4	0	1	5	9	9	6	11	10
July	84	9	3	6	5	3	5	0	7	6	4	0	1	5	9	10	8	9	8
Aug.	84	8	4	5	5	4	5	0	7	7	5	0	1	5	9	8	8	9	9
Sept.	84	7	2	4	4	4	5	0	8	7	3	2	1	5	8	8	6	6	8
Oct.	84	6	0	4	2	4	6	–1	8	4	5	2	2	5	8	7	8	7	9
Nov.	84	6	0	5	3	4	4	–1	8	3	4	3	2	6	7	7	7	6	6
Dec.	84	5	0	5	4	3	6	–2	4	2	3	4	5	6	8	7	6	3	5
Jan.	85	4	1	3	3	5	3	–2	6	–1	6	3	4	6	9	8	6	1	6
Feb.	85	4	4	3	2	4	4	0	7			3	4	5	9	7	7	2	6
Mar.	85	4	3															–3	4
		Ten Year Annual Growth Rate, Percent																	
1969-79		3	3	4	4	3	3	4	4	3	3	2	2	5	5	4	4	10	10

		9 Countries		8 Countries ex. U.S.		North America (2)		Europe (4)		Pacific Region (3)	
		Indexes, 1980 = 100									
		Perf.	Lead.	Perf.	Lead.	Perf.	Lead.	Perf.	Lead.	Perf.	Lead.
Jan.	84	103	114	102	111	105	118	98	113	110	108
Feb.	84	104	115	102	111	106	120	98	113	110	109
Mar.	84	104	115	102	112	106	120	97	113	111	110
Apr.	84	105	116	103	113	107	120	97	114	112	111
May	84	105	116	103	113	108	120	98	114	112	111
June	84	106	116	103	113	109	120	97	114	112	111
July	84	106	116	104	114	109	119	98	115	113	112
Aug.	84	106	117	104	114	109	120	98	115	113	113
Sept.	84	106	117	104	115	109	120	99	116	114	114
Oct.	84	107	117	105	116	109	118	99	117	114	114
Nov.	84	107	117	105	116	110	119	99	117	115	115
Dec.	84	108	118	105	116	111	119	99	117	116	116
Jan.	85	108	119	105	117	110	120	99	118	116	117
Feb.	85	108	120	106	118	111	122	100	119	116	118
		Growth Rates, Percent									
Jan.	84	7	11	3	9	12	15	2	7	5	12
Feb.	84	7	11	3	8	12	15	2	6	6	12
Mar.	84	6	9	3	7	11	11	1	6	6	11
Apr.	84	6	9	3	8	11	10	1	5	6	12
May	84	6	8	3	7	11	8	1	6	6	10
June	84	6	6	3	6	11	6	0	4	6	9
July	84	6	5	4	6	9	3	2	4	6	9
Aug.	84	5	5	4	6	8	4	2	5	5	8
Sept.	84	5	4	4	6	7	2	3	5	5	8
Oct.	84	5	3	4	6	6	0	2	5	6	8
Nov.	84	5	3	4	5	6	0	2	5	6	7
Dec.	84	4	3	4	5	5	0	2	4	6	8
Jan.	85	4	4	3	6	4	1	2	4	6	8
Feb.	85	4	5	4	7	3	4	3	6	5	9
		Ten Year Annual Growth Rate, Percent									
1969-79		4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	5	5


Where We Are
Growth Rates,%, Performance Indexes
Where We're Headed
Growth Rates, %, Leading Indexes
Nine Industrial Countries
Eight Countries Excluding United States
North America (2 Countries)
Europe (4 Countries)
Pacific Region (3 Countries)
1979 1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985

Note: Horizontal dashed lines are average growth rates for 1969-79 in the index and in real GNP.
Sources: CIBCR and The Conference Board